



RIVERDALE  
GRADE SCHOOL

# i-Ready

## Riverdale Grade School's philosophy

At Riverdale Grade School, we use Curriculum Associates' i-Ready Program as our diagnostic, benchmark assessment and as a tool for adaptive instruction. This program allows us to monitor student progress on grade-level Common Core standards for English language arts and math and allows us to differentiate instruction for students within the classroom setting.

As expected, all students will demonstrate varied academic areas of strength and areas in need of growth on these benchmark assessments. While we understand the value of these tools, we also understand that they will never alone provide a thorough picture of each student. As such, assessment data will be used *along with other classroom data* to support student needs.

At Riverdale, we emphasize the concept of "depth over breadth." It is not our philosophy to have students work above their grade level, but rather challenge them in other ways. A student scoring "above grade level" across Common Core standards suggests he or she might benefit from extensions in those areas. While an online assessment can show that a student has some skills in an area enough to recognize and answer questions, the test cannot accurately capture the depth of that knowledge, and therefore can only be used as an indicator, not a hard and fast rule about a child's overall ability and placement.

As teachers, we can provide students with opportunities to extend and deepen their understanding and application of these standards through complex tasks. By diving deeper into these standards, we are better preparing students for challenges they will face in the next grade level and throughout their educational career.